

April 7, 2003

Mr. Thomas Baillieul, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Columbus Closure Project
1425 Plain City-Georgesville Rd.
West Jefferson, OH 43162

Dear Mr. Baillieul:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (March 29-April 4, 2003)

I. Operations:

Building JN-1:

Utilities were removed from the JN-1B Pump Room.

Clean up efforts were initiated after the High Energy Cell (HEC) well decontamination (Work Instruction [WI] 1154).

Personnel were trained both in the classroom and in the field on the new InstaCote® system and chemicals. This equipment was used in accordance with WI-1105 to perform test spraying and peeling in the cask washdown area (see attached photos). Next week spraying the HEC will begin. The BCLDP's system had to be worked on at the representatives' facility so equipment loaned to the project by the vendor is being used.

WI-1129, which covers lead removal from the HEC windows, has been issued; and staff have been briefed on the work. Workers will attend the new lead program on Monday, and work will begin after the training.

The draft of WI-1099 and the Myers Movers work plan for removing the cranes and crane rails from the HEC has been discussed with staff. The draft is being finalized and comments are being incorporated. The final draft will be sent out for comment next week. Work will begin shortly after the WI has been signed.

Building JN-3

Water is being continually pumped from under the JN-3 basement via the wells and pumps installed in the Pump Room and around the reactor pool.

West Jefferson (WJ) External Areas:

Ground water is being pumped from the wells on the exterior of JN-3.

Preliminary design drawings from the Engineer (Prater) were received for the JN-1 Pump Room.

Final design drawings for utility relocations in JN-4 and the new JN-4 access road were reviewed. Final comments were provided to BWSC on utility drawings. A change order request from BWSC on the revised scope of JN-4 isolation plan was received.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipping:

The BCLDP completed a teleconference with Westinghouse TRU Solutions concerning the JN-4 contact-handled TRU waste. A formal transmittal to the DOE-Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) of the JN-4 acceptable knowledge data package and the real time radiography (x-ray) videotape will be completed next week. Included in this transmittal will be the request for CBFO to assign this waste an action item number for tracking.

On April 2, 2003, two drums of remote-handled (RH)-TRU mixed waste were placed on the 90-day clock. These drums were labeled hazardous waste and are being stored in the northwest corner of the storage pool. Notifications were made about adding this location as a new 90-day storage area. This additional storage area was required because the associated dose rates (up to 100 R/hr) are too much for the other 90-day storage area. These drums, along with other RH-TRU mixed waste, will need to be shipped in the 72-B cask to maximize the payload per shipment. Therefore, it is important that the necessary planning and demonstrations be completed to allow use of the 72-B cask.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Storage:

The first quote for the purchase of concrete storage units was received from Dufrane Nuclear. The price ranges from \$30,431 to \$37,043, depending on the unit design (inside or outside use).

Saxton Pin Disposition:

Work is continuing on conceptual plans for repackaging the Saxton fuel pin and shipping options for the repackaged pins. The drum to duplicate the one the pin is currently packaged in was assembled this week. It will be used to perform mock-up demonstrations for removing the pin.

The review of the Saxton pin information by the GE shipping engineers has determined that the current CoC for the GE-2000 cask will not allow for shipment of the pin. GE is preparing a quote, which will include pricing for modification of the CoC and packaging the Saxton pin in the GE-2000 for shipment.

Low Level Waste (LLW) Operations:

Five (5) 55-gallon drums of LLW were compacted in the Charpy Cell. Forty-nine cubic feet (49 ft³) of compactable LLW were accepted for packaging. Non-compactable low-level debris from radioactive material areas in JN-1 was packaged into B-25 boxes, IP-2 sea/land containers, and IP-1 intermodal containers for a total volume of 574 ft³ (531 ft³ for Envirocare and 43 ft³ for Hanford disposal).

One B-25 box of mixed LLW (MLLW) from the HEC was staged in the JN-1 "sheep shed" <90-day RCRA accumulation area. The MLLW is destined for Envirocare of Utah for treatment and disposal.

Twenty (20) ft³ of clean compactable trash were radiologically free released for municipal disposal. One ninety cubic foot (90 ft³) steel box was radiologically free-released for commercial recycling.

Six drums of mercury-contaminated radioactive mixed waste (RMW) were shipped to Permafix/M & EC in Oak Ridge, TN, for treatment and disposal. The total volume of RMW shipped was 45 ft³.

Technology Deployment:

Staff injected 2,400 gallons of water for the spring profile of Plot #2 and reviewed the data for the injection cycle testing (WI-984). The advance copies of the injection and extraction procedures are currently under review. Engineering modifications to extract water from the field are nearly complete. Plot #2 subsurface water level monitoring is continuing.

II. Environmental Safety and Health Performance:

Safety performance is 192 days and 134,245 exposure hours without a lost time injury accident.

III. Facilities and Equipment:

Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance were completed for the West Jefferson North facility alarms, instrumentation, building functions, tickler system, and grounds. The evaporator is cleaned and turned off. The JN-1 Pump Room roof purchase order has been sent out for review and signature.

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Planning continued in the following areas:

- JN-1B Pump Room roof resurfacing (WI-1131) is in the review cycle.
- Procedure revisions are complete for replacement of the JN-1B groundwater sump pump. The current pumps float switch has failed.

IV. Future Work Activities:

Attached is the projected work schedule for the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weaver, P.E., Manager
Operations

PJW:dew/dmk